



Department of Commerce

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General Purpose Grant

Introduction

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) General Purpose Grants are made available annually through a competitive application process to assist Washington State small cities, towns and counties in carrying out significant community and economic development projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

For More Information

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The Washington State CDBG Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the state CDBG Program is to improve and maintain the economic and physical environment of eligible, non-entitlement cities and counties in order to enhance the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents and, as a result, benefit the entire community.

Examples of eligible General Purpose Grant activities include:

- Public facilities such as water, wastewater and streets
- Community facilities, such as community centers, homeless shelters and child care facilities
- Economic development, such as public infrastructure and micro-enterprise assistance resulting in direct job creation
- Housing rehabilitation
- Comprehensive projects requiring a combination of eligible activities

Funds Available

Approximately \$12,000,000 is expected to be available for General Purpose Grants in 2010. The maximum amount for a single grant is \$1 million, or \$1.5 million for projects over \$10 million. Local governments may submit only one application each annual funding cycle, unless one of the applications is for local micro-enterprise assistance.

Eligibility Guidelines

- Eligible applicants are Washington State cities and towns with less than 50,000 population or counties with less than 200,000 population that are non-entitlement jurisdictions or are not participants in a HUD Urban County Entitlement Consortium.
- Non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, and special purpose organizations such as public housing authorities, port districts, community action agencies, and economic development councils are not eligible to apply directly to the CDBG Program for funding, but may be partners in projects and subrecipients of funding through eligible jurisdictions.
- Projects must principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.

Application Process

Note: The 2010 application and award timeline is different from 2009 due to delays in availability of federal funds, current recovery funding processes, and the development of the program's 5-year Consolidated Plan.

1. Application handbooks will be available October.
2. Application workshops are scheduled for October 13th in Moses Lake, and October 20th in Olympia.
3. Applications will be due January 21, 2010 with awards announced in May 2010.
4. Applications are rated by a review committee, given a numerical score and funded by highest score first until all available funds have been awarded.